

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 4 of 2021 with
MC(PIL) No. 2 of 2021

Date of order: 13.08.2025

Registrar General, High Court vs State of Meghalaya & ors.
of Meghalaya

Managing Director, Indigo vs Registrar General, High Court
of Meghalaya

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr P. Yobin, Amicus Curiae with
Mr A. Dkhar, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr K. Khan, AAG with
Mr A.H. Kharwanlang, Addl Sr GA
Dr N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms. M. Myrchiang, Adv.

i) Whether approved for Yes/No
reporting in Law journals etc.:

ii) Whether approved for publication Yes
in press:

Note: For proper public information and transparency, any media reporting this judgment is directed to mention the composition of the bench by name of judges, while reporting this judgment/order.

This public interest litigation regarding development and expansion of the Shillong Airport was entertained and is being monitored by this Court, appreciating the need felt by the people of this

State for a larger and more well-equipped airport to facilitate operation of heavy passenger and cargo jet aircrafts. Given the present capacity of this airport only smaller and lighter aircrafts can operate from here.

Shillong, is the capital of this rapidly growing state. Unless its only airport is enabled to handle large jet aircrafts, all round development of the State would be severely impeded.

From time to time, we had passed orders to expedite the process of acquisition of land and for building of infrastructure for construction of a longer and sturdier runway and for providing the required facilities for operation of larger aircrafts in this airport.

From time to time, we had sought action taken reports, the last of which was by our order dated 15th July, 2025.

We have received a short note from Mr Khan, learned Additional Advocate General on behalf of the State. Learned Deputy Solicitor General has also made submissions.

Regrettably, it appears from those submissions, that although both the Central and State governments are conscious of the importance of expansion of this airport, the required urgency and commitment to propose in accomplishing this goal is not visible from the reports received by us. Even now, the situation is that a fund of ₹72,17,56,237/-

further to a cabinet approval made on 4th June, 2025 has been released by the State to the District Rural Development Agency to purchase 11.75 acres of land from individual landowners.

This is nothing but state to state instrumentality transfer of fund. There is not an agreement for sale of land entered into with any party let alone transfer in their favour. We wonder when this transferred fund will be utilised to purchase the land. The army authorities have been good enough to allow some portion of land in their custody to be utilised for this purpose. According to the report, only the exercise of demarcation of land between them and the State is going on. Nothing has been done to demarcate and allocate this land for airport use.

Learned Deputy Solicitor General, Dr Mozika submits that the Airports Authority of India would only be able to conclude the contract for construction of infrastructure with a contractor after obtaining clearance from the Director General of Civil Aviation, receiving environmental clearance and on acquisition of land for the airport. Environmental clearance was expected to be obtained by 31st October, 2025. Clearance by the Director General of Civil Aviation is pending.

In those circumstances, we can only direct that the above steps which have been taken in an absolutely usual government pace be

accelerated. It is high time that this project which has been contemplated for the welfare of this State is completed as soon as possible.

List this public interest litigation on 8th December, 2025. Action taken reports by the State and Central governments should be filed in Court before the adjourned date. Let copy of the report be served upon the petitioner at least 48 hours before the adjourned date.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
13.08.2025
"Sylvana PS"